



# ***Voting Information News***

August 2006 *vs* Vol. 16, No. 8

*A roundup of voting news from the Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) for voters, potential voters and those who assist voters.*

## **Issue Highlights:**

*Preparing for Armed Forces Voters Week*

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*Are You A New VAO?*

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## **Voting Assistance Officers**

### **"To Do" This Month:**

☑ Plan your Armed Forces Voters Week (AFVW) activities. Get the whole community involved and aim for 100% contact.

☑ Contact your local commissary and exchange and organize voter outreach activities starting with AFVW and through October 15 (last day of Absentee Voters Week).

☑ Use local resources such as Commander's bulletins, newspapers, radio and television stations to help you get the word out about voting. Post motivational posters on bulletin boards in offices, commissaries and exchanges.

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## **Preparing for Armed Forces Voters Week September 3-9, 2006**

The November 7, 2006 General Election is right around the corner, and that means its time for Voting Assistance Officers (VAO) to make their last push to get out absentee voting information. The 2006 Armed Forces Voters Week (AFVW), this coming September 3 - 9, is the perfect opportunity for VAOs to coordinate workshops and information sessions in order to provide absentee voting assistance.

AFVW marks the last safe week when UOCAVA citizens can send in the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) (SF-76) in order to register as an absentee voter with their Local Election Offices and to receive their absentee ballot in time to vote in the November election. Remember that specific information regarding registration and absentee ballot request form deadlines is located in the *2006-2007 Voting Assistance Guide* as well as online at the FVAP website ([www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov)) under state by state instructions.

**Armed Forces Voters Week Goal: Attaining 100% contact and availability of FPCAs for all personnel.**

### **What to do during AFVW?**

- Organize workshops to be held during AFVW and advertise sign-up sheets for these classes during the few weeks prior. Use those workshops as an opportunity to help your fellow service members complete FPCAs as well as to answer any of their questions regarding absentee voting. Remember to emphasize the importance of requesting an absentee ballot **early!** When addressing individual questions regarding differing states and their regulations be sure to consult the *Voting Assistance Guide (VAG)*. Remember that many states allow for various types of electronic transmission of election materials. Be sure to inform service members of their electronic alternatives during the ballot requesting process. Also, encourage individuals to contact their Local Election Offices immediately if they do not receive their ballots in a timely manner.
- Place FVAP posters in communal areas to help remind service members of the upcoming November election. If

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**Share your good ideas!** Send your good ideas and lessons learned to your Department of State or Service Voting Action Officer.  
(Contact information on page 3)

## "To Do" This Month

(continued):

☑ Take an inventory to ensure that you have adequate supplies of absentee voting materials (make sure that you have an ample supply of Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB, SF-186) for UOCAVA voters.

☑ Visit the FVAP's website frequently for up-to-date, on-line information and resources from the Program as well as links to other sites of interest in carrying out your duties as a VAO. The FVAP is continually updating the website: [www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov).

**NOTE:** The appearance of external hyperlinks does not constitute endorsement by the United States Federal Government, United States Department of Defense or the Federal Voting Assistance Program of the linked web sites, or the information, products or services contained therein. The Federal Voting Assistance Program does not exercise any editorial control over the information you may find at these locations.

## Armed Forces Voters Week (continued)

you would like to request posters from the FVAP simply contact our Ombudsman Service at the toll free number, **1-800-438-VOTE** or contact FVAP via email at: [vote@fvap.ncr.gov](mailto:vote@fvap.ncr.gov)

Here are some of the posters currently available . . . .



State	State Primary	General Election	State Primary	General Election
Alabama	June 12	November 7	Alabama	June 12
Alaska	June 12	November 7	Alaska	June 12
Arizona	June 12	November 7	Arizona	June 12
Arkansas	June 12	November 7	Arkansas	June 12
California	June 12	November 7	California	June 12
Colorado	June 12	November 7	Colorado	June 12
Connecticut	June 12	November 7	Connecticut	June 12
Delaware	June 12	November 7	Delaware	June 12
Florida	June 12	November 7	Florida	June 12
Georgia	June 12	November 7	Georgia	June 12
Hawaii	June 12	November 7	Hawaii	June 12
Idaho	June 12	November 7	Idaho	June 12
Illinois	June 12	November 7	Illinois	June 12
Indiana	June 12	November 7	Indiana	June 12
Iowa	June 12	November 7	Iowa	June 12
Kansas	June 12	November 7	Kansas	June 12
Kentucky	June 12	November 7	Kentucky	June 12
Louisiana	June 12	November 7	Louisiana	June 12
Maine	June 12	November 7	Maine	June 12
Maryland	June 12	November 7	Maryland	June 12
Massachusetts	June 12	November 7	Massachusetts	June 12
Michigan	June 12	November 7	Michigan	June 12
Minnesota	June 12	November 7	Minnesota	June 12
Mississippi	June 12	November 7	Mississippi	June 12
Missouri	June 12	November 7	Missouri	June 12
Montana	June 12	November 7	Montana	June 12
Nebraska	June 12	November 7	Nebraska	June 12
Nevada	June 12	November 7	Nevada	June 12
New Hampshire	June 12	November 7	New Hampshire	June 12
New Jersey	June 12	November 7	New Jersey	June 12
New Mexico	June 12	November 7	New Mexico	June 12
New York	June 12	November 7	New York	June 12
North Carolina	June 12	November 7	North Carolina	June 12
North Dakota	June 12	November 7	North Dakota	June 12
Ohio	June 12	November 7	Ohio	June 12
Oklahoma	June 12	November 7	Oklahoma	June 12
Oregon	June 12	November 7	Oregon	June 12
Pennsylvania	June 12	November 7	Pennsylvania	June 12
Rhode Island	June 12	November 7	Rhode Island	June 12
South Carolina	June 12	November 7	South Carolina	June 12
South Dakota	June 12	November 7	South Dakota	June 12
Tennessee	June 12	November 7	Tennessee	June 12
Texas	June 12	November 7	Texas	June 12
Utah	June 12	November 7	Utah	June 12
Vermont	June 12	November 7	Vermont	June 12
Virginia	June 12	November 7	Virginia	June 12
Washington	June 12	November 7	Washington	June 12
West Virginia	June 12	November 7	West Virginia	June 12
Wisconsin	June 12	November 7	Wisconsin	June 12
Wyoming	June 12	November 7	Wyoming	June 12

do your best to keep your activities simple. Coordinating with other VAOs on base, as well as with other organizations can help spread the work load around. Examples of other "on base" organizations include wives clubs, family services, and boy/girl scouts. Club sports teams are also a great means through which you can spread the news about the upcoming election.

- Another great avenue for voter outreach campaigns includes installation newspapers and other internal media, including closed-circuit television and Armed Forces Radio and Television Service (AFRTS). Contact them and advertise the importance of absentee voting along with Armed Forces Voters Week. Remember, however, to always give them sufficient lead time in order to ensure that your advertisements are posted early. Be sure to include any dates of registration drives or workshops that you have planned during AFVW, and provide your contact information so service members can contact you with any questions.

- Be sure to consult the *Voting Assistance Guide* (VAG) along with the FVAP website ([www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov)) throughout AFVW. These are two great resources to consult when instructing others about absentee voting. If you think you will need FPCAs, FWABs and or VAGs feel free to contact FVAP at **1-800-438-VOTE** or via email at [vote@fvap.ncr.gov](mailto:vote@fvap.ncr.gov) and our Ombudsman Service Agents will be happy to assist you.

- For those service men and women not currently registered to vote, advertise a voter registration drive.
- Realizing that for most of you, being a VAO is an additional duty,

## Are You A New VAO ?

If you're a new Voting Assistance Officer, here are some helpful steps to get started...

- **Attend a VAO Workshop:** Offered monthly in the Washington DC area, and periodically at military installations nation and worldwide throughout the election year. Contact FVAP or your SVAO to find out dates and reserve your spot

OR

- **Complete E-Learning/Online Training:** If you are unable to attend an in-person workshop, you can complete your training online. Go to [www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov) and in the gray sidebar under 'FVAP Services', select the Voting Assistance Workshops and e-Learning link. From there, you can download the workshop slides and either request an e-learning training CD, or you may register online through [www.GoLearn.gov](http://www.GoLearn.gov) and then select the "Federal Voting Assistance Program Training" for either military or civilian training. All instructions for this process are listed in detail on our website.

- **Introduce Yourself!** Let people know you are available as a resource and how and where they can reach you
- **Get On the List:** Sign up to receive this newsletter to be guaranteed the most up to date and important voting news. Email [vote@fvap.ncr.gov](mailto:vote@fvap.ncr.gov) with your email address if you wish to receive it via email, or provide your full name and mailing address in the body of the email message to receive it by standard mail—or both
- **Get Materials:** Stock up on VAGs, FPCAs, FWABs, motivational posters by ordering supplies through your service or organization. Instructions are available on the FVAP website at <http://www.fvap.gov/pubs/getpubs.html>
- **Familiarize Yourself With:** DoD Directive 1000.4 that establishes FVAP and VAO positions, the 2006-07 Voting Action Plan, DoD Directive 1344.10 "Political Activities by Members of the Armed Forces on Active Duty", the  
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### Voting Action Officers

#### Department of State: Office of Overseas Citizens Services

Chief VAO: Mr. Jack Markey, **tel:** (202) 736-4937, **fax:** (202) 647-6201, **Email:** [votinginfo@state.gov](mailto:votinginfo@state.gov)

#### Service Voting Action Officers

**U.S. Dept. of the Army:** Mr. James Davis **tel:** (703) 325-4530 **DSN:** 221-4530; **fax:** (703) 325-4532 **DSN fax:** 221-4532, **Email:** [davisj@hoffman.army.mil](mailto:davisj@hoffman.army.mil), <https://www.hrc.army.mil/site/Active/TAGD/pssd/psb/votingindex.htm>

**U.S. Dept. of the Navy:** LT David Truman **tel:** 1-866-U-ASK-NPC (827-5672) (select option 6 from menu), **fax:** (901) 874-6825, **DSN fax:** 882-6825, **Email:** [vote@navy.mil](mailto:vote@navy.mil), <http://www.cni.navy.mil/NavyVote/Index.html>

**U.S. Dept. of the Air Force:** Mr. John Lowrance **tel:** (210) 565-5000, **toll free:** 1-800 616-3775 (Select options 1, then 1, then 2 from menu), **DSN** 665-5000; **fax:** (210) 565-2543, **DSN fax:** 665-2543; **Email:** [afpcdpsfvotingpgmdlist@randolph.af.mil](mailto:afpcdpsfvotingpgmdlist@randolph.af.mil); <http://www.afcrossroads.com/VoteFund/Vote/default.htm>

**U.S. Marine Corps:** Mr. David E. James **tel:** (703) 784-9511, **DSN:** 278-9511; **fax:** (703) 784-9823, **DSN fax:** 278-9823; **Email:** [david.e.james@usmc.mil](mailto:david.e.james@usmc.mil) [https://www.manpower.usmc.mil/pls/portal/url/page/m\\_ra\\_home/MR/Personnel/Voting](https://www.manpower.usmc.mil/pls/portal/url/page/m_ra_home/MR/Personnel/Voting)

**U.S. Coast Guard:** LTJG Dan Owen **tel:** (202)-267-1709, **fax:** (202) 267-4823; **Email:** [dowen@comdt.uscg.mil](mailto:dowen@comdt.uscg.mil), [http://www.uscg.mil/hq/g-w/g-wpm/g-wpm-1/VotingAssistance/Voting\\_Assistance.htm](http://www.uscg.mil/hq/g-w/g-wpm/g-wpm-1/VotingAssistance/Voting_Assistance.htm)

## Federal Voting Assistance Program

Department of Defense  
1155 Defense Pentagon  
Washington, DC  
20301-1155

PHONE:  
(703) 588-1584  
DSN 425-1584

FAX  
(703) 696-1352  
DSN 426-1352

VOTING INFORMATION  
CENTER (VIC):  
(703) 588-1343  
DSN 425-1343

TOLL FREE (VIC and FVAP  
staff member):  
1-800-438-VOTE (8683)

Visit our website for  
international toll-free phone  
and fax numbers.

EMAIL:  
[vote@fvap.ncr.gov](mailto:vote@fvap.ncr.gov)

Comments or suggestions on  
this newsletter are welcome.

Website:  
[www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov)

# Vote!

## Are You A New VAO? (continued)

- **Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA)** and the other valuable links provided under **Voting Assistance Officer Tools and Information** at <http://www.fvap.gov/vao/vaointerest.html>
- **Start a Voting Continuity Folder:** If your predecessor did not provide you with one, start a folder with your reference materials, *Voting Information News*, election dates, voter drive information, VAG updates, etc.
- **Promote and Be Visible!** Publicize voting weeks like Armed Forces Voters Week (September 3-9), or start your own voter registration drive. Posters and lists of *Good Ideas* for voting promotion are available on the FVAP website.
- **Watch the Calendar:** Keep track of which states are having

elections and promote voting registration accordingly. Primary elections especially often get forgotten by voters, so it's your job to encourage voters to register early enough for their state's primary, not just the general election. Election date posters are a great way to keep this information handy

- **Stay Up To Date:** Make sure that you are receiving your monthly *Voting Information News (VIN)* newsletters, check the FVAP website for state legislature voting changes or updates to the VAG—listed on the VAG Errata Sheet available on the website, and keep in touch with FVAP's Ombudsman service if you have any questions.

☒ **VOTE!**

**Moving?** Send an FPCA to notify your local election official. Also, send us an email so that you and your replacement can continue receiving this *newsletter*.

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Washington, DC 20301-1155



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